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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/904,269 | 07/12/2001 | Dennis L. Matthies | INTL-0571-US (P11416) | 2029 |
| 21906 | 7590 | 04/19/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| TROP PRUNER & HU, PC 8554 KATY FREEWAY SUITE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 | | | DONG, DALEI | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2879 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/904,269

Applicant(s)

MATTHIES, DENNIS L.

Examiner

Dalei Dong

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Response filed March 20, 2006, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,855,637 to Yakou in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,914,150 to Porter.

Regarding to claim 1, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, a method comprising: temporarily flattening a sheet (1 or 2, with a vacuum chuck); processing the sheet while the sheet is held in a flattened configuration; and securing the sheet (1 or 2) to a second sheet (1 or 2) while continuing to hold the sheet (1 or 2) in a flattened configuration.

However, Yakou does not disclose applying row and column electrodes to the sheet.

Porter teaches in Figures 9 and 12, applying row and column electrodes to a sheet (see column 28, lines 37-48) for the purpose of efficiently controlling the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilize the row and column electrodes of Porter for the flat-panel display of Yakou in order to efficiently control the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Regarding to claim 2, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, temporarily flattening the sheet (1 or 2) includes placing the sheet in a vacuum chuck and applying a vacuum to flatten the sheet.

Regarding to claim 4, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, applying a light emitting material to the sheet.

Regarding to claim 5, Porter discloses in Figures 9 and 12, applying a light emitting material to the sheet includes applying an organic light emitting material between the row and column electrodes, and the motivation to combine is the same as above.

Regarding to claim 6, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, processing the second sheet (1 or 2) in a flattened configuration.

Regarding to claim 7, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, the second sheet (1 or 2) in a chuck.

Regarding to claim 8, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, both the first and second sheets (1 and 2) in chucks and combining the sheets using the chucks.

Regarding to claim 9, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, securing the first and second sheets (1 and 2) to an integrator plate (4).

Regarding to claim 10, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, surface mounting the first and second sheets (1 and 2).

Regarding to claim 11, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, surface mounting the first and second sheets (1 and 2) in the chucks.

Regarding to claim 12, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, a method comprising: receiving a warped sheet; temporarily flattening a sheet (1 or 2, with a vacuum chuck) for processing; processing the flattened, and securing the flattened, warped sheet to a planar surface.

However, Yakou does not disclose applying row and column electrodes to the sheet.

Porter teaches in Figures 9 and 12, applying row and column electrodes to a sheet (see column 28, lines 37-48) for the purpose of efficiently controlling the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilize the row and column electrodes of Porter for the flat-panel display of Yakou in order to efficiently control the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Regarding to claim 13, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, securing the flattened sheet (1 or 2) to a second sheet while continuing to hold the flattened sheet in a flattened configuration.

Regarding to claim 14, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, temporarily flattening the sheet (1 or 2) includes placing the sheet in a vacuum chuck and applying a vacuum to flatten the sheet.

Regarding to claim 15, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, securing the flattened sheets (1 and 2) to rigid, planar integrating plate (4).

Regarding to claim 16, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, a method comprising: temporarily flattening a ceramic sheet (1 or 2, with a vacuum chuck); processing the glass panel while the sheet is held in a flattened configuration; and securing the sheet (1 or 2) to the glass panel (1 or 2) while continuing to hold the sheet (1 or 2) in a flattened configuration.

However, Yakou does not disclose applying row and column electrodes to the sheet.

Porter teaches in Figures 9 and 12, applying row and column electrodes to a sheet (see column 28, lines 37-48) for the purpose of efficiently controlling the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilize the row and column electrodes of Porter for the flat-panel display of Yakou in order to efficiently control the discharge of the flat-panel display.

Regarding to claim 17, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, securing the flattened sheets (1 and 2) to rigid, planar integrating plate (4).

Regarding to claim 18, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, temporarily flattening the ceramic sheet by placing the sheet in a vacuum chuck and applying a vacuum to flatten the sheet.

Regarding to claim 19, Porter discloses in Figures 9 and 12, applying an organic light emitting material between the row and column electrodes, and the motivation to combine is the same as above.

Regarding to claim 20, Yakou discloses in Figures 1-5, 35 and 36, processing both the sheet and the panel in chucks and combining the sheet and panel using the chucks.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed March 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that the Yakou reference fails to teach or suggest holding the sheet in a flattened configuration, the Examiner respectfully disagree. The Examiner asserts that the Yakou reference the flat sheets (1 and 2) are being held in vacuum chuck (608) and the flat portion of the heating plate (20 and 26). Further, the Examiner asserts that the Yakou reference teaches the use of the vacuum tile chuck, which places the sheets to be assembled in vacuum, and in order to achieve vacuum the sheet must be assembled and temporarily flattened. Albeit, the sheet maybe be stiff or thick, however, under vacuum chuck it has to be flatten to a degree and the degree of flatness of the sheet was not claimed by the Applicant, thus Examiner interprets any degree of flattening of the sheet as claimed flattening the sheets.

Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to flatten the sheets or held the sheet in flat configuration during manufacturing of the apparatus in order eliminate wrinkles and defects within the apparatus. Also, it is an inherent property that the sheet must be flattened or held in a flat configuration before being manufactured or before its being placed in the vacuum chuck.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalei Dong whose telephone number is (571)272-2370. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 A.M. to 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimeshkumar Patel can be reached on (571)272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

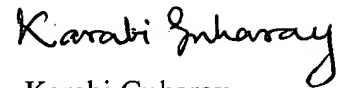
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D.D.

April 12, 2006



Karabi Guharay
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879